

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Final Office Action of March 14, 2011 has been carefully considered. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25-30 and 32-34 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7 and 25 being the only independent claims. Claims 1 and 7 are amended to properly recite the location of the top cover. Claims 2, 8, 13-24 and 31 have been previously canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

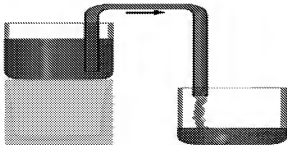
Claim Rejection under 35 USC §112

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25-30 and 32-34 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner states that he fails to understand how a siphon tube can be coupled to the reservoir cover and that such would render the device inoperative since the tube extends into the annular space between the tub and the basket. The Examiner questions how water would siphon upwards.

Claim 1 recites that a “reservoir” is removably coupled to the top cover of the additive dispensing system. Referring to paragraph 0020, the reservoir 130 is provided for dispensing wash additives such as bleach. The reservoir has an “upper siphon fitting” extending downwardly from the reservoir cover and a lower siphon fitting removably coupled with the upper siphon fitting. A “conduit” is coupled to the “reservoir cover” and extends into the annular space and is configured to deliver a “diluted additive” into the annular space. To do so, a “wash solution” is provided by mixing fresh water with the additive. The conduit 132 is coupled to the reservoir and delivers the diluted additive

to the annular space. In one embodiment, the delivery of the diluted additive is accomplished by a “siphon action” and conduit 132 is a “siphon tube” coupled to reservoir 130. The reservoir 130 includes a removable cover coupled to the top cover 54 of the washing machine. The conduit 132 is a “siphon tube” coupled to the removable reservoir cover 131. The reservoir cover 131 includes an upper “siphon fitting 133.” The reservoir 130 includes a lower siphon fitting 135. (Paragraph [0021].) It is clear from Figures 2 and 3 that the conduit 132 is coupled to the removable reservoir cover 131, which includes the upper siphon fitting 133. It is submitted that the Examiner’s presumption that the conduit 132 of Fig. 2 was “extending from the lower siphon fitting (135) of the reservoir” is incorrect. Figure 2, clearly shows that the conduit 132 is shown extending from the upper portion of the removable reservoir cover 131 and not from the bottom of the reservoir 130, which is where the lower siphon fitting 135 shown in Fig. 3 is located.

As is generally understood in the art, the word “siphon” is generally used to refer to an action that involves the flow of liquid through tubes. The tube is usually in an inverted “U” shape which causes the liquid to flow “uphill” above the surface of the reservoir, without pumps, “powered by the fall of the liquid as it flows down through the tube under the pull of gravity and is discharged at a level lower than the surface of the reservoir.” (Excerpt taken from Wikipedia.) An illustration is provided below.



It is respectfully submitted the description and figures clearly support a siphoning action that draws the “diluted additive” from the reservoir 130 and delivers it through the conduit 132 into the annular space 92. Thus, a siphon tube coupled to the reservoir cover as is recited in the claims does not render the device inoperative.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

General Electric Company

By: /Douglas D. Zhang/
Douglas D. Zhang
Patent Attorney
Registration No.: 37,985

Dated: June 16, 2011.

GE Global Patent Operation
2 Corporate Drive, Suite 648
Shelton, CT 06484
203-944-6755